



Amendments to the specification:

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 34-35 of the specification as indicated below:

As the oxygen, either of molecular oxygen and nascent oxygen can be used. Such molecular oxygen includes, but is not limited to, pure oxygen, and oxygen diluted with an inert gas such as nitrogen, helium, argon or carbon dioxide. Air is preferably used as the molecular oxygen from the viewpoints of operating ~~property~~ properties and safety, as well as cost efficiency. The oxygen may be used in an excess molar ratio ~~moles~~ relative to the compound, between compound (A) and compound (B), that is used in a less lesser ~~proportion between the compound (A) and the compound (B)~~ proportion.

Amend the second full paragraph on page 45 of the specification as indicated below:

The heteroatom-containing compounds (B3) ~~(B2)~~ include, for example, ~~(B2-1)~~ (B3-1) compounds each having a sulfur atom, ~~(B2-2)~~ (B3-2) compounds each having a nitrogen atom, ~~(B2-3)~~ (B3-3) compounds each having a phosphorus atom, and ~~(B2-4)~~ (B3-4) compounds each having an oxygen atom. The compounds (B3-1) ~~(B2-1)~~ each having a sulfur atom include, for example, sulfides and thiols. The compounds (B3-2) ~~(B2-2)~~ each having a nitrogen atom include, for example, amines. The compounds (B3-3) ~~(B2-3)~~ each having a phosphorus atom include, for example, phosphates. The compounds (B3-4) ~~(B2-4)~~ each having an oxygen atom include, for example, N-oxides.